

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
 - 2 comparing a metric against a threshold; and
 - 3 setting a timer to delay a roaming attempt by a wireless network client.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the metric comprises a received signal strength indicator.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the metric comprises a current data rate.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the metric comprises a number of packet retries.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising comparing a plurality of metrics against a plurality of thresholds, and setting the timer in response.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the metric comprises a received signal strength indicator, and the threshold is dependent on the current data rate.
- 1 7. A method comprising setting a timer to one of a plurality of values to delay a roaming attempt by a mobile station in a wireless network, wherein the mobile station attempts to roam after the timer expires.
- 1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein setting a timer comprises comparing at least one metric to at least one threshold, and setting the timer in response.
- 1 9. The method of claim 7 wherein the value to which the timer is set is influenced by a perceived quality of a current association.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein when the perceived quality of the current
2 association is relatively low, the timer is set to a value that is relatively low.

1 11. The method of claim 9 wherein when the perceived quality of the current
2 association is relatively high, the timer is set to a value that is relatively high.

1 12. The method of claim 7 wherein setting a timer comprises setting a hardware
2 timer.

1 13. The method of claim 7 wherein setting a timer comprises setting a software
2 timer.

1 14. A method comprising:
2 comparing a first metric to a first threshold and conditionally setting a timer
3 to a first value;
4 comparing a second metric to a second threshold and conditionally setting
5 the timer to a second value; and
6 attempting to roam when the timer expires.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the first metric comprises a data rate.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the first threshold corresponds to the lowest
2 possible data rate.

1 17. The method of claim 15 wherein the second metric comprises a received
2 signal strength indicator.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the second threshold is dependent on the
2 current data rate.

1 19. The method of claim 17 wherein the second value is larger than the first
2 value.

1 20. The method of claim 14 further comprising comparing a percentage of
2 missed beacons to a threshold, and conditionally attempting to roam in response.

1 21. An apparatus including a medium adapted to hold machine-accessible
2 instructions that when accessed result in a machine performing:
3 comparing a first metric to a first threshold and conditionally setting a timer
4 to a first value;
5 comparing a second metric to a second threshold and conditionally setting
6 the timer to a second value; and
7 attempting to roam when the timer expires.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the first metric comprises a data rate.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the first threshold corresponds to the
2 lowest possible data rate.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the second metric comprises a received
2 signal strength indicator.

1 25. An apparatus comprising:
2 a radio interface to interact with a wireless network; and
3 a processor coupled to the radio interface, wherein the processor is adapted
4 to set a timer based on a perceived quality of a current association, and further
5 adapted to attempt roaming when the timer expires.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the timer is at least partially implemented
2 in hardware.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the timer is at least partially implemented
2 in software.

1 28. An electronic system comprising:
2 an omni-directional antenna;
3 a radio interface coupled to the omni-directional antenna to interact with a
4 wireless network; and
5 a processor coupled to the radio interface, wherein the processor is adapted
6 to set a timer based on a perceived quality of a current association, and further
7 configured to attempt roaming when the timer expires.

1 29. The electronic system of claim 28 wherein the timer is at least partially
2 implemented in hardware.

1 30. The electronic system of claim 28 wherein the timer is at least partially
2 implemented in software.